



BARRE

Worcester County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Barre is a small rural community located almost exactly in the center of the State. Although originally Barre had many operating farms, in recent years they have become fewer, leaving many unsown farm fields. Barre has three distinct villages; Barre, South Barre and Barre Plains. Residents feel the town has one of the loveliest town commons in Central Massachusetts and during the summer months, band concerts are held there. The population of Barre has grown in recent years due to the influx of persons migrating from the cities in search of affordable housing. This has required the construction of an addition to the elementary school, and made an addition to the regional junior/senior high school necessary within five years. The population increase brought with it a wide mix of income levels with distinct needs and expectations of town services. Nevertheless the school system is quite progressive and Barre has a balanced budget, both of which townspeople are very proud. Barre is particularly lovely during the summer and fall as the many visitors to the community will attest.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Central Massachusetts, bordered by Phillipston on the north, Hubbardston on the northeast, Rutland and Oakham on the southeast, New Braintree on the south, Hardwick on the southwest, and Petersham on the northwest. Barre is 22 miles northwest of Worcester, 61 miles west of Boston, and 197 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 44.61 sq. miles

Land Area: 44.33 sq. miles

Population: 4,546

Density: 103 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Barre Falls Dam Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.0°F

Normal temperature in July.....67.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....42.1"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Barre, Petersham, North Brookfield, Ware

Regional Planning Agency

Central Massachusetts

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Worcester



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 355-5003

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1774

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	2,705		
Democrats	910	33.6	%
Republicans	333	12.3	%
Other parties	2	0.1	%
Unenrolled Voters	1,460	54.0	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Barre town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	5,113	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	5,113	100.0
Male.....	2,506	49.0	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	41	0.8
Female.....	2,607	51.0	Mexican.....	-	-
Under 5 years.....	320	6.3	Puerto Rican.....	16	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	428	8.4	Cuban.....	10	0.2
10 to 14 years.....	448	8.8	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	15	0.3
15 to 19 years.....	350	6.8	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	5,072	99.2
20 to 24 years.....	195	3.8	White alone.....	4,969	97.2
25 to 34 years.....	651	12.7	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	934	18.3	Total population.....	5,113	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	756	14.8	In households.....	5,086	99.5
55 to 59 years.....	223	4.4	Householder.....	1,889	36.9
60 to 64 years.....	161	3.1	Spouse.....	1,113	21.8
65 to 74 years.....	295	5.8	Child.....	1,700	33.2
75 to 84 years.....	279	5.5	Own child under 18 years.....	1,372	26.8
85 years and over.....	73	1.4	Other relatives.....	174	3.4
Median age (years).....	37.1	(X)	Under 18 years.....	56	1.1
18 years and over.....	3,661	71.6	Nonrelatives.....	210	4.1
Male.....	1,790	35.0	Unmarried partner.....	118	2.3
Female.....	1,871	36.6	In group quarters.....	27	0.5
21 years and over.....	3,526	69.0	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	739	14.5	Noninstitutionalized population.....	27	0.5
65 years and over.....	647	12.7	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	267	5.2	Total households.....	1,889	100.0
Female.....	390	7.4	Family households (families).....	1,378	72.9
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	689	36.5
One race.....	5,055	98.9	Married-couple family.....	1,113	58.9
White.....	4,992	97.6	With own children under 18 years.....	530	28.1
Black or African American.....	26	0.5	Female householder, no husband present.....	186	9.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	5	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	117	6.2
Asian.....	17	0.3	Nonfamily households.....	511	27.1
Asian Indian.....	1	-	Householder living alone.....	431	22.8
Chinese.....	1	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	195	10.3
Filipino.....	5	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	730	38.6
Japanese.....	2	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	475	25.1
Korean.....	2	-	Average household size.....	2.69	(X)
Vietnamese.....	1	-	Average family size.....	3.17	(X)
Other Asian ¹	5	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	1,888	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	1,889	95.0
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	99	5.0
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	7	0.4
Some other race.....	15	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.6	(X)
Two or more races.....	58	1.1	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.1	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	1,889	100.0
White.....	5,037	98.5	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,456	77.1
Black or African American.....	44	0.9	Renter-occupied housing units.....	433	22.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	35	0.7	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.84	(X)
Asian.....	32	0.6	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.21	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	27	0.5			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 66

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Located in the Worcester region, which has major cross-state highways: the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9), Route 20, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. I-495 borders to the east, I-190 links to the Fitchburg-Leominster area, I-84 and I-395 connect to Connecticut and points south. The region is well connected by rail and highway to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 32, 62, and 122, which connects Barre to Worcester.

Rail

The Massachusetts Central Railroad provides freight rail service in Barre. Contact number: (413) 283-2911

Bus

Barre is a member of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) but does not receive services.

Other

The Worcester Municipal Airport, a Primary Commercial (PR) facility with scheduled passenger service, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 5,500' and 6,999' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Barre Historical Society
18 Common Street
(978) 355-2572

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.